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GIPROGRAD - City Planning Institute
at Kharkov/The Kommunalni Institut

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. GIPROGRAD (Gosudarstvenni Institut Proektirovaniya Gorodov - Government Institute of City Planning) in Kharkov was in reality a city planning department for the whole Ukraine. It was charged with the development of plans for the improvement of existing large cities and for the creation of small new towns. It had approximately 200 technically trained personnel on its staff - architects, engineers, city planners, economists, and draftsmen. Under the Director of GIPROGRAD, there were eight or ten chiefs of city project sections. These persons were architects. A section would work on the plans of one city and then shift to work on another city. Plans were made for such cities as Kharkov, [REDACTED], Poltava, and Kremenchug, as well as for smaller towns. [REDACTED]

GIPROGRAD also had a Secret Section (Sekretnaya Sluzhba), composed of what must have been NKVD personnel, to check on the political reliability of the employees and to supervise their political training. Informants were used by the Secret Section.

2. GIPROGRAD was located in Dom Kooperatsii (Cooperation House) on Gosprom Square. Dom Gosprom (Gosudarstvenniya Promishlennost - Government Industry) was next to Dom Kooperatsii. The City Planning Institute was housed on the fourth floor, but did not utilize the whole floor. The building was [REDACTED] and was made of grey stone. It was damaged during World War II. Most of the staff of the institute was evacuated northward, somewhere in the Urals. Prior to about 1936, GIPROGRAD was located elsewhere in Kharkov. It was in an old, grey stone building of two stories located, I believe, on Gubernatorskaya Ulitsa, near Nodova Ploshchadskaya Ulitsa.

3. As of 1941, the Director of GIPROGRAD was (fnu) Novikov, a Communist. He was not technically trained; his job was administrative. He was tall, heavily built, had greyish hair, and was said to be intelligent. He was about 40, in 1941. The person who was number two man at the Institute, from the viewpoint of influence, was (fnu) Chernov. He, in effect, was the head of the Secret Section. Although he did not have that title. His section

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must have been under the NKVD. Chernov had informants who reported to him on the political reliability of staff members; he also gave political lectures. I believe he finished an institute which trained city planners and he appeared to do this type of work at GIPROGRAD. Chernov was a Communist Party member, [REDACTED] He was about 40 as of 1941, had black hair and a dark complexion, was tall and thin, did not appear to be intelligent. The person who officially held the title of Chief of the Secret Section was a woman, (fau) Tsipina. She did political work only, was in reality under Chernov's authority. She was a fanatical Communist Party member. Tsipina as of 1941 was about 42, [REDACTED]

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4. The Chief Engineer of GIPROGRAD was Makar Leontievich Davidovich. He supervised city planning activities, was a good engineer, intelligent, and energetic. He was a nice person and single; he was not a Communist. He was about 43 as of 1941. The following five persons were chiefs of city project sections:
- (a) Vladimir - Orehev - supervised the Zaporozhe project at one time, was about 34 in 1941, handsome, tall, not fat, light brown hair. Orehev was a nice person although [REDACTED] He was not a Communist; he was married.
 - (b) Alexander Mikhailovich Kasianov - chief of the Kharkev project, an engineer - architect, very good worker, talented, intelligent, likable, married, small, plump, about 38 as of 1941. He had to join the Communist Party in about 1936, but did not really believe in Communism.
 - (c) Boris Mikhailovich Ogar - chief, as I recall, of the Kremenchug project, Russian Jew, architect, intelligent, likable, not a Communist, about 33 in 1941.
 - (d) Alla Danilevna Ivanova - she was chief of a city project section, but I do not remember which one. She was a talented architect, tall, blonde, elegant although not pretty in appearance, intelligent, nice, gay, and divorced. She was about 30 in 1941. She had worked on various city projects, including those for Zaporozhe and Kremenchug. The authorities attempted to persuade her to join the Communist Party and perhaps she did in about 1936, but she was not really a Communist.
 - (e) Anatoli Ivanovich Stanislavski - supervised the Poltava project at one time, an architect, a very nice person, intelligent, handsome, tall, blonde, slightly plump, married, about 37 in 1941. In addition to his work, he took advanced studies at an institute for city planners in Kharkev. He was not a Communist.
5. Prior to about 1936, before GIPROGRAD moved to Dom Kooperativ, the Communalni Institut (Communal Institute) was part of GIPROGRAD. The full name of the Communalni Institut was Institut Grahdanske Communalnith Socrusheni (Institute of Governmental Communal Building). At the time that GIPROGRAD moved, the Communalni Institut became separate. It was relocated in an area which may be described as Kharkev's University City. There were other educational institutions housed there, such as the Straitalni Institut (Construction Institute). The area faced a square, about two kilometers from Gosprem Square. The Medical Institute of Kharkev, however, remained on Gosprem Square, on Semakaya Ulitsa. In regard to the Communalni Institut, it had several faculties. I can recall only four: Architecture, Art, Water Lines and Sewage Systems, and Economics (despite its name, this faculty was devoted to the training of city planners, with emphasis on economic factors).

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